INTER-WORKING MESH TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

[0050] A communication system (5) comprises a first network (10) including a source (11) arranged to transmit data and a second network (30) including a destination (31) arranged to receive the data. At least one of the first network and the second network is a mesh network. Interruptions in communication between the source and destination are reduced by providing a first primary node (12) and a first secondary node (13) in the first network (10), and a second primary node (32) and a second secondary node (33) in the second network (30). A first set of primary routes (14) is provided within the first network to facilitate delivery of a first set of the data to the first primary node and a second set of the data to the first secondary node. Inter-network routes (20) between the first and second networks deliver the first and second sets of the data to the second primary node and the second secondary node. A second set of primary routes (34) within the second

network facilitate delivery of at least one of the first and second sets of data to the destination node. A selector (40) within the second network selects one of the first and second sets of data. Route selectors (42, 44) select secondary routes (18, 36) in the event that a primary route is disabled.